

1. (Three Times Amended) A method of fermenting a liquid medium with a yeast slurry from a previous fermentation, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a yeast slurry from a previous fermentation having 40 g/l yeast to 80 g/l yeast on a dry weight basis, wherein the yeast experienced anaerobic conditions in the previous fermentation;

C1 (b) passing at least a portion of the yeast slurry through a membrane contactor, the contactor comprising at least one hydrophobic, microporous membrane, the membrane having a liquid side and a gas side, wherein the contactor is connected to an oxygen source, and wherein at least a portion of the yeast slurry is in proximity to the membrane on the liquid side;

(c) delivering oxygen from the oxygen source to the gas side of the membrane under conditions that cause at least a portion of the oxygen to transfer from the gas side of the membrane to the yeast slurry such that the k_La is at least 0.005 sec^{-1} and such that the pressure on the liquid side of the membrane is kept higher than the pressure on the gas side of the membrane; and

(d) thereafter pitching a liquid medium with the yeast slurry.

C2 4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the medium is wort.

Remarks

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6 and 10-11 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and rejected claims 1-6 and 10-11 under 35 USC §103(a).